अखबारी क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत संचालित मिलों द्वारा अखबारी कागज की कीमतों में वृद्धि

514. **श्री बलवंत सिन्हा :**
सरदार बलजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकारी क्षेत्र में चल रही अखबारी कागज की मिलों द्वारा पूरे की अखबारी कागज की कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि की गयी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कीमतों में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि की गयी है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने समाचार पत्रों पर पड़ने वाले विपरीत भार से उन्हें राहत दिलाने के लिये कोई ठोस उपाय किये हैं ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि कोई उपाय नहीं किये गये हैं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (प्रो० के० के० तिवारी) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) जनवरी, 1988 की कीमत की तुलना में 52 ग्राम प्रति वर्ग मीटर के अखबारी कागज की कीमतों में 28 से 40 प्रतिशत तक की वृद्धि हुई है ।

(ग) और (घ) अखबारी कागज की कीमतों पर केन्द्रीय सरकार का कोई कारगर नियंत्रण नहीं है और कीमतों में कटौती करना संभव नहीं हो पाया गया है ? तथापि छोटे और मझोले समाचार पत्रों की कठिनाईयों को देखते हुये, सरकार ने मौजूदा नियमनों के अन्तर्गत वर्ष 1989–90 का अखबारी कागज आवंटन नीति के अनुसार चिकने अखबारी कागज के पत्र छोटे समाचार पत्रों/पत्रिकाओं को चिकने अखबारी कागज पर सीमा शुल्क में शत प्रतिशत और मझोले समाचार पत्रों/पत्रिकाओं को 50 प्रतिशत की रियायत देने का निर्णय लिया है । वैसे मिल से छोटे और मझोले समाचार पत्रों को अखबारी कागज देने की पेशकश की गई है । इस मिल से उससे सस्ता अखबारी कागज दे रही है । प्रशासनिक और वितरण खर्च को कम करने के लिये 200 मीट्रिक टन से कम के छोटे समाचार पत्रों का जिन्हें आवंटन के बजाय छपाई आवंटन किया जाता है । छोटे और मझोले समाचार पत्रों को भारतीय राज्य व्यापार निगम के माध्यम से अखबारी कागज दिलाये जाने की भी अधिकता दी जायेगी । अखबारी कागज आवंटन नीति के अनुसार सभी समाचार पत्रों को अखबारी की प्रथम किस्त जारी सुनिश्चित करने के लिये भी कदम उठाये हैं ।

Supply of Rice to Tribals under the Integrated Tribal Development Project

575. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government issue rice to certain predominantly tribal States at special food-grains subsidy scheme to be distributed among tribals under the Integrated Tribal Development Project ;

(b) if so, what is the issue price of rice under this scheme and the States to which rice is issued under this scheme ;

(c) whether the State agencies are allowed to add a certain amount to the issue price to defray transportation and distribution cost, if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that certain States are charging higher price of rice to be issued to tribals under Integrated Tribal Development Projects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD

AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Under a scheme introduced by the Government of India w.e.f. December 1985, rice as also wheat are issued to the State Governments/Union Territories for distribution at specially subsidised rates to people living in areas covered under the Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) and the tribal majority States of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(b) The current Central issue prices and end retail prices fixed by the Government of India of the varieties of rice supplied under the scheme are as follows :—

(Rs. per quintal)

	Central issue price for ITDP areas	End retail price to consumers under the scheme
Rice (Common) .	194.00	219.00
Rice (Fine) .	254.00	279.00
Rice (Superfine) .	275.00	300.00

A statement showing the names of States/Union Territories having ITDP areas and the tribal majority States where foodgrains are being supplied under the scheme is attached (*See* below)

(c) The end retail prices of specially subsidised foodgrains under the scheme are fixed in such a way as to allow a margin of Rs. 25/-a quintal to cover transport cost incidentals etc. This margin is uniformly applicable to all the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations implementing the scheme.

(d) Government of Andhra Pradesh had been charging Rs. 200/- per quintal for common rice since the implementation of this scheme upto 7.8.86 against the then permissible ceiling of Rs. 185/- per quintal. Government of West Bengal have fixed retail rates under the ITDP scheme of common fine and superfine varieties of rice at Rs. 223 Rs. 289, and Rs. 310 respectively per quintal. The Government of Gujarat has rounded off the ITDP retail prices to Rs. 220 per quintal for common rice and Rs. 280 per quintal for fine variety rice involving thereby an increase of Rs. 1 per quintal. The State Governments have been advised to follow the end retail prices of specially subsidised foodgrains fixed by the Government of India. Information in respect of other States is being collected.

Statement

Names of the States/Union Territories having ITDP areas and Tribal Majority States and where foodgrains are being supplied at specially subsidised rates

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory ITDP States/Union Territories
1	2
1	Andhra Pradesh
2	Assam
3	Bihar
4	Gujarat
5	Himachal Pradesh
6	Karnataka
7	Kerala
8	Madhya Pradesh
9	Maharashtra
10	Manipur
11	Orissa
12	Rajasthan
13	Sikkim
14	Tamil Nadu
15	Tripura
16	Uttar Pradesh
17	West Bengal

1	2
18	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
19	Daman
	Tribal Majority States/Union Territories
20	Arunachal Pradesh
21	Meghalaya
22	Mizoram
23	Nagaland
24	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
25	Lakshadweep

Import of sugar

516. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government propose to import sugar worth Rs. 400 crores during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors necessitating such heavy imports; and

(c) who is being appointed as their agents for the imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Quantum and schedule of import of sugar are decided after considering domestic stock, production, consumption of sugar, current price and expected trend in internal market and sugar price in International Market. It is not in public interest to disclose such details.

Declaration of coconut as oilseed

517. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Governmment has been demanding for a long time that coconut should be declared as oilseed; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b) Demands have been made from time to time to declare Coconut as an Oilseed. It is not considered necessary to declare coconut as oilseed because being a plantation crop, distinct from annual crops of other oilseeds, coconut requires specialised handling for which Coconut Development Board has been set up. Besides, only a small part of this crop is being used as edible oil.

Pepsi Co Projects

518. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the progress made so far in the implementation of the Pepsi-Cola Project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : A new company in the name of M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Limited has been formed as a joint venture company to implement the Letter of Intent. Effective steps like acquisition of land, commencment of construction of civil works, placing of orders for machinery etc. has been taken As part of setting up of an Agro-Research Centre, agricultural extension research is underway at various places to improve yields per acre of tomatoes and potatoes.